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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 01099 021515Z

43
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11 /070 W
---------- 010324
R 020901Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3935
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF BHUTTO INTERVIEW WITH
LEWIS SIMONS

1. PAK PRESS HAS TO DATE GIVEN VERY LITTLE PLAY TO LEWIS SIMON'S INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WHICH RAN IN WASHINGTON POST JANUARY 24 AND INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE JANUARY 27. WE HAVE NOTICED COVERAGE ONLY IN THREE VERNACULAR DAILIES, NONE OF WHICH GAVE IT ANY PROMINENCE. LOCAL PRESS AGENCIES HAVE NOT DISTRIBUTED STORY. LEADS FOR ARTICLES AS CARRIED HERE DEAL WITH BHUTTO'S EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR BREAKUP OF INDIA THAT HE PROFESSES CURTAILMENT OF DEMOCRACTY POSES. THOSE PORTIONS OF SIMONS' ARTICLE WHICH DEAL WITH INDIA SEEM TO HAVE BEEN PRESENTED STRAIGHT, BUT THOSE CONCERNING ABRIDGEMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN ARE OMITTED.

2. AS ADDRESSES ARE AWARE, INTERVIEW REPRESENTS AN ABRUPT DEPARTURE FROM BHUTTO'S POST-EMERGENCY PRACTICE OF NOT CRITICIZING INDIA OR MRS. GANDHI PUBLICLY, POINT
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MADE IN ARTICLE ITSELF. HOWEVER, WITH EXCEPTION OF PPP

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ORGAN MUSAWAT, NO PAPER WE HAVE SEEN HERE HAS PICKED UP
INDIAN THEME OR USED BHUTTO'S REMARKS AS LEAD-IN FOR
REITERATION OF FAMILIAR ANTI-INDIAN COMMENTARY WHICH COMES
SO NATURALLY TO PAKISTANI EDITORIALISTS. MUSAWAT
EDITORIAL WAS ITSELF MODERATE IN TONE, DISCUSSING DECLINE
OF DEMOCRACY IN INDIA (WITHOUT MENTION OF THREAT TO
UNITY OF NATION) AND CLOSING WITH EXPRESSION OF CONCERN
THAT THIS DECLINE MAY POSE A THREAT TO PEACE ON THE
SUB-CONTINENT.
BYROADE

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